

BARRACKS BUILDING
FT. GIBSON, OKLAHOMA

Muskogee Co.

HABS Nº 34-1

HABS
OKLA,
51-FOGIB,
1A-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT Nº 34

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

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BARRACKS BUILDING, FORT GIBSON

FORT GIBSON, OKLA.

The Barracks, built of dark yellow native sand stone with natural slate roof, was started in 1845 when General Thomas S. Jesup, Q.M.G. of the Army, arrived at Fort Gibson with orders to construct stone buildings on the hill above the original log constructed fort. The floor framing is of oak and all interior wood trim of walnut. The building is two stories high. The original arrangement of this building, according to Report of Asst. Surgeon Alfred Delany, United States Army, was as follows--"In the lower story were the mess-rooms and kitchens; in the upper story the squad-rooms and orderly-rooms. This building was divided into two distinct barracks by solid partitions, and each was occupied by one company. There were fourteen double bunks to accomodate 56 men, allowing to each man over 500 cubic feet of air space. The windows and doors were large. Each squad-room had seven windows on the south side and six windows and a door on the north side; the latter opening on a veranda 12 feet in width, which extended the whole length of the building. The orderly-rooms were each 14 feet long and 21 feet wide. The mess-rooms

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and kitchens have the same dimensions as the rooms in the upper story. There are no cellars nor store-rooms."

The north half of the Barracks Building was torn down several years ago (See record drawings), and with the stone from this building a residence was constructed adjacent to the site, now belonging to Mr. Clawson and occupied by Harry H. Williamson, Superintendent of the National Cemetery at Fort Gibson. The cornerstone of the Barracks now built into the Clawson residence bears this inscription: "Nov. 1st. A.D. 1845 C.O.C." The inscription "B.Co. 10th Cavy Left Here May 12 1842 Inrout to Baker", is crudely carved on one of the stone door sills. This probably should have been 1872 for the Tenth Cavalry was not stationed at Fort Gibson until 1872. Within the memory of persons now living in Fort Gibson this building billeted two companies of soldiers, the first floor being used as a mess hall and the second floor as sleeping quarters. (Statement of Miss Fuller of Fort Gibson)."

~~In 1894 the great Cherokee payment was made in this building. In 1898 Miss Laura Rowland of Little Rock, Arkansas, established a school for the blind in this structure and about twenty years ago the state merged this school with the state school for the blind and moved it from here. (Statement by Miss Bess Howard, Fort Gibson.)~~

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~~quarters of military operations in that vicinity during the remainder of the Civil War and played a conspicuous part in strengthening the hands of the loyal element among the tribes. The name of Blunt was officially attached to the post until December 31, 1863 when it was dropped in favor of Fort Gibson.~~

Mr. H. W. Hicks of Vinita, Oklahoma acquired this property before Statehood and owned it until April, 1934 when he sold it to a Mr. Carroll of Muskogee, Oklahoma, who intended to tear it down and use the building materials to construct a house. The Oklahoma Historical Society, who now owns the property, heard of this and purchased it from Mr. Carroll. It is the intention of the Historical Society to restore this building and use it as a museum.

Mr. Hicks advises that in 1898 this building was used as a State School for the Blind, the school later being moved to Muskogee. The building was not again occupied and has slowly been wrecked by the elements and souvenir hunters.

Historical Data furnished and/or edited by:

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Approved [Signature]

DISTRICT OFFICER